

Rediscovering The Winning Chemistry of The Early Church

*“For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. **If your gift is serving others, serve them well.** If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. **And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly...**All the believers **were one in heart and mind.** No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.” Romans 12:4-8 & Acts 4:32*

I. Introduction

“Life is our true manuscript, and our decisions the real pen and ink of writing.”

II. What Made the Early Church So Powerful?

Short answer: They supernaturally chose to_____

“They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:42-47

III. Why Should I Care?—Christian Living Where the Rubber Meets the Road

*“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him...then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; **I was sick and you visited Me;** I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' **And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'** Matthew 25:31-40 (NKJV)*

Identifying the 7 life-changing elements of caring for one another:

Caring for one another includes...

Helping others to _____

"Bear one another's burdens, and in doing so fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

Allowing the light of God's _____

"Let your light so shine...that people may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

Ministering to those that you don't even _____

*"...**I was sick and you visited Me**...Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see **YOU** sick and come to visit You?'" Matthew 25:39-40*

Sometimes simply choosing to be of a _____

"The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself." Prov.11:25

Being a blessing by merely bringing an _____

"A person's anxiety will weigh him down, but an encouraging word makes him joyful." Prov.12:25

Becoming a difference maker by _____

"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues...they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." Mark 16:17-18 (NKJV)

Prayer is critical because it can...

- change the _____
- bring a supernatural _____
- facilitate physical _____

*"A **merry heart makes a cheerful countenance**, but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken."*

Proverbs 15:13 (NKJV)

*"A **merry heart** does good, like medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones." Proverbs 17:22*

*"**The spirit of a man will sustain him** through times of sickness, but who can bear a broken spirit?"*

Proverbs 18:14

Simply doing for others what you would _____

"Do to others as you would like them to do to you." Luke 6:31 (NLT)

ANSWER KEY:

II. What Made the Early Church So Powerful?

Care for one another

III. Considering A Critical Demonstration of Caring and Fellowship

- Bear life's heavy loads
- Love to shine through you
- Know by name
- Generous spirit
- Encouraging word
- Praying for your friend

Spiritual atmosphere

Holy Spirit visitation

Healing, recovery and hope

- You would want done for you